

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00386 121800Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1143
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT CA
SUBJ: BIRTH OF NEW INDEPENDENTIST POLITICAL GROUP

1. A GROUP OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE OLD RESSEMBLEMENT POUR L'INDEPENDENCE NATIONALE (RIN), WHICH JOINED WITH RENE LEVESQUE'S MOUVEMENT SOUVERAINETE-ASSOCIATION (MSA) IN 1968 TO FORM THE PARTI QUEBECOIS, HAVE DECIDED TO ORGANIZE A NEW SEPARATIST PARTY, THE MOUVEMENT POUR L'INDEPENDENCE DU QUEBEC (MIQ).

2. ACCORDING TO LE DEVOIR COLUMNIST PIERRE O'NEILL (WHO IS THE BROTHER OF PQ MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS LOUIS O'NEILL), THE MIQ ALREADY HAS APPROXIMATELY 100 PARTY MEMBERS, INCLUDING SUCH GUARDIANS OF INDEPENDENCE ORTHODOXY AS GILLES MARIER, MARCEL CHAPUT, AND RENE BATAILLE. ITS MEMBERS ARE DRAWN MAINLY FROM AMONG EXTREME QUEBEC NATIONALISTS WHO ACCUSE CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PQ OF DEVIATIONISM ON THE INDEPENDENCE QUESTION. THEY NO DOUBT OBJECT MOST OF ALL TO THE PQ'S TACTICAL RELIANCE ON THE SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION FORMULA AND THE PQ COMMITMENT TO HOLDING A REFERENDUM PRIOR TO MOVING TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE. THE MIQ WILL ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT FROM

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WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE PQ ITSELF, AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE PARTY, ACCORDING TO O'NEILL.

3. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, THE NEW PARTY WILL ATTRACT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DISENCHANTED FANATICS, BUT IS UNLIKELY TO THREATEN PQ ELECTORAL STRENGTH IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY MAY ACTIVELY AID THE PQ BY

ATTRACTING AWAY EMBARRASSINGLY RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY. ALSO, MIQ COULD BE USEFUL IN PROVIDING BARELY CREDIBLE SPONSOR FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENNNNCE OPTION IN COMING CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM. THE EXISTENCE OF THE MIQ SHOULD HELP THE PQ IN DEFINING ITS ROLE AS MODERATE PARTY BY PROVIDING RADICAL CONTRAST. WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY COVERT PQ ROLE IN FORMING THE MIQ, IT CLEARLY IS AN INSTRUMENT THE PQ WOULD HAVE TO INVENT IF IT DID NOT ALREADY EXIST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: BIRTH OF NEW INDEPENDENTIST POLITICAL GROUP
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
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